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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/023,611	12/18/2001	Al Baker	5123-20	2909

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EXAMINER

WALSH, JOHN B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2151

DATE MAILED: 06/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/023,611

Applicant(s)

BAKER, AL

Examiner

John B. Walsh

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

RD

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 4 recites “receiving from the endpoint device...to the endpoint device”. It is unclear how the endpoint device is transmitting to itself.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1- 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,012,088 to Li et al.

As concerns claim 1, a method for configuring an endpoint device to a computer network, comprising the steps of: monitoring a dynamic allocation of a first unique network address to the endpoint device (column 3, line 28, column 6, lines 50-56) when the endpoint device is connected to the computer network (figure 1); establishing, in response to said monitoring, a connection between a configuration manager and the endpoint device (column 3, line 32-37);

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identifying, through said established connection, a class of the endpoint device connected to the network (inherent for address to have a class); retrieving configuration information from a configuration database (column 10, line 9) for the identified class of the endpoint device; and configuring the endpoint device to the computer network using the retrieved configuration information (column 9, lines 54-55).

As concerns claim 2, the method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of: assigning to the endpoint device a second unique network address (inherent for dynamic addressing to assign a device a second address for a point in time) that is selected from a block of predetermined network addresses for the identified class of the endpoint device, to replace the first unique network address.

As concerns claim 3, the method according to claim 2, wherein the first unique network address is a first IP address allocated by a DHCP (Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol) server (column 8, line 28) and the second unique network address is a second IP address assigned by the configuration manager (column 9, line 38-59, administrator assigns address when initially given a range of addresses).

As best understand concerning claim 4, the method according to claim 1, providing the first unique network address to the endpoint device in response to said request signal (column 3, lines 33-35, configuration includes a network address, column 9, line 54).

As concerns claim 5, the method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of: transmitting a polling signal to the endpoint device when the endpoint device is connected to the network (column 3, lines 23-33, during automatic configuration process a polling signal may be used); receiving from the endpoint device a reply signal in response to the transmitted polling

signal (column 9, lines 38-40, line 49, 51); and providing the first unique network address to the endpoint device in response to said reply signal (column 9, line 54).

As concerns claim 6, the method according to claim 1, wherein the endpoint device comprises a router (column 7, line 9, column 3, line 59) operatively connected to a second computer network for effecting a configuration of a plurality of computer networks.

As concerns claim 7, the method according to claim 1, wherein the endpoint device comprises a computer-controlled standalone device (column 6, lines 50-55).

As concerns claim 8, the method according to claim 2, wherein said assigning further comprises removing the first unique address from a listing of active addresses so as to reserve the first unique address for future use (inherent for dynamic address configuration).

As concerns claim 9, the method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of: determining, prior to said establishing, whether communication between the computer network and the endpoint device can be established (user determines by having the correct hardware and communication connection); and if communication cannot be established, assigning to the endpoint device a second unique network address selected from a block of predetermined network addresses that are each reserved for an unknown device, to replace the first unique network address that had been allocated to the endpoint device (inherent for dynamic address configuration to assign a second address to replace a first address).

As concerns claim 10, the method according to claim 2, wherein the first unique network address is allocated to the endpoint device for a lease period, and further comprising the step of: modifying, with said assigning of the second unique network address to replace the first unique

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network address, the lease period of the endpoint device connected to the computer network (inherent for dynamic address configuration).

As concerns claim 11, the method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of: determining whether adding of the endpoint device to the computer network exceeds a predetermined threshold number of endpoint devices to be connected to the network (user determines how they want to design their network and may already have a device performing a particular service); and if the predetermined threshold number is exceeded, restricting the endpoint device to be added as a router operatively connected to a different computer network (column 3, lines 38-44, device may be used as a router since other services are already established).

As concerns claim 12, a server computer for configuring an endpoint device for connection to a computer network, said server computer comprising: a network interface (inherent for a server to have a network interface); a configuration database (column 10, line 9) for storing configuration information for at least one class of the endpoint device; means for verifying a first unique network address provided via said network interface to an endpoint device connected to the computer network and for providing a signal indicative of said verifying (column 12, line 29, also inherent for DHCP to verify information assigned); a connection manager (ISP) operable for establishing, in response to the signal from said verifying means, communication between the computer network and the endpoint device; and a configuration manager operable for identifying a class of the endpoint device connected to the computer network, for retrieving from said configuration database configuration information for the identified class of the endpoint device, and for automatically configuring the endpoint

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device to the computer network using the retrieved configuration information (column 3, line 34-37).

As concerns claim 13, the server computer according to claim 12, further comprising: a DHCP server (column 8, line 28) for assigning to the endpoint device a unique IP address as the first unique address.

As concerns claim 14, the server computer according to claim 12, wherein said configuration manager is operable to assign to the endpoint device a second unique network address selected from a network address within a block of predetermined addresses for the identified class of the endpoint device, wherein the second network address replaces the first network address (inherent for dynamic address configuration).

As concerns claim 15, the server computer according to claim 12, wherein said verifying means comprises a DHCP watchdog (column 24, lines 50-57, also inherent for DHCP to watch, perhaps via a timer, the status of an address).

As concerns claim 16, a computer readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of: monitoring a dynamic allocation of a first unique network address to an endpoint device when the endpoint device is connected to a computer network (column 3, line 28; column 6, lines 50-56); establishing, in response to said monitoring, a connection between a configuration manager (configuration server, column 3, line 34) and the endpoint device; identifying, through said established connection, a class (inherent for address to have a class) of the endpoint device connected to the network; retrieving configuration information from a configuration database (column 10, line 9) for the identified class of the endpoint device; and configuring the endpoint

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device to the computer network using the retrieved configuration information (column 22, lines 63-66).

As concerns claim 17, the computer readable medium according to claim 16, further comprising the step of: assigning to the endpoint device a second unique network address that is selected from a block of predetermined network addresses for the identified class of the endpoint device, to replace the first unique network address (inherent for dynamic address configuration).

As concerns claim 18, the computer readable medium according to claim 17, wherein the first unique network address is a first IP address allocated by a DHCP (Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol) server (column 8, line 28) and the second unique network address is a second IP address assigned by the configuration manager (column 9, line 38-59; administrator assigns address from initially assigned range of addresses).

As concerns claim 19, the computer readable medium according to claim 16, wherein the endpoint device comprises a router (column 7, line 9; column 3, line 59) operatively connected to a second computer network for effecting a configuration of a plurality of computer networks.

As concerns claim 20, the computer readable medium according to claim 16; wherein the endpoint device comprises a computer-controlled standalone device (column 6, lines 50-55).

Conclusion

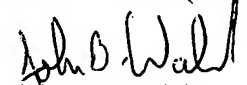
5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John B. Walsh whose telephone number is 571-272-7063. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Wednesday from 5:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Zarni Maung can be reached on 571-272-3939. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


John B. Walsh
Primary Examiner
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